The Council rose for lunch at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2 P. M. with Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai, one of the Panel of Chairmen, in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan, Excise Commissioner, took the oath and signed the Rolls.

DEMAND III—EDUCATION—(*contd.*)

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: If Travancore occupies a high place among the Native States in India, it is because of her high percentage of literacy. In the course of nearly half a century, education in Travancore has, under the sedulous and fostering care of His Highness' Government, grown from a tender and tiny plant into a gigantic tree stretching its vigorous branches to the remotest corners of the country. But to this liberal, progressive and enlightened educational policy, a set-back has been given by the recent Government order restricting admission to students in the Government colleges in the State. I can understand the college authorities refusing admission to students on the ground of want of accommodation, but I really fail to understand the reason in denying admission to them merely because they did not get through their School Final or Intermediate Examination in the first chance. I learn there is still sufficient accommodation in the colleges, and yet many students are refused admission. I am really astonished to note that, even in the matter of admission to these educational institutions, Government insist upon communal representation. We are spending every year Rs. 46 lakhs or nearly 20 per cent. of the tax-payers' money on education and I do not see any reason why Government should deny admission to these students on the ground of communal considerations. Sir, Government may even refuse them appointments in public service, but they have no right to deny them the opportunity to acquire knowledge and culture. All children are legitimately entitled to get education at public expense. Education is a matter of utmost importance to the people. It would dispel their ignorance, widen their outlook on life, qualify them to participate intelligently in the political life of the country and improve their economic efficiency. No sane Government in the world, I believe, would take such retrograde steps to prevent the cultural advancement of its people. Do our Government wish that we should drift back to barbarism?

If the object of Government is to raise the general standard of higher education, that object is not going to be attained so long as they permit the non-Governmental institutions to admit students

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